THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 10th July 1952.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at four of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Raising the limit of tax exemption under the Madras General Sales Tax Act.

* 31 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any indication of a general rise in prices of all goods at present as compared with the prevalent rates in 1939 when the Madras General Sales Tax Act was first passed; and

(*b*) whether the Government are contemplating to raise the limit of tax exemption under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act with reference to the rise in prices?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know, Sir, if in the light of answer to clause (*a*) of the question, it is not fair to expect that petty dealers would be affected and not have the benefit of the exemption contemplated under the Act if the exemption limit is not raised."

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I am sure it is the opinion of the hon. Member and it cannot be taken as a general rule."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, if the Government have under consideration any proposal to raise the limit of tax exemption at least in the case of foodgrains and salt? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" There is no such proposal, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR :—" May I know whether a copy of the new Bill under contemplation in the Centre has been received here and whether the proposed legislation in the Centre would affect in any way the working of the Act in this State? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" I read that news item in the newspaper and I have no idea beyond that."